

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COA-02 L-03 H-03 EB-11 COME-00 IO-14

INT-08 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DLOS-06 EA-11

TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-19 AGR-20 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 DRC-01 /176 W
----- 065479

O R 071615Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 812

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMCONSUL BELEM UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 8313

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS BR

SUBJECT: SHRIMP FISHING AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 238653

1. ERNESTO CARVALHO, ACTING HEAD OF ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT OF FONOFF, HAD REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH ECON COUNSELOR TO DISCUSS SHRIMP AGREEMENT PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL. MEETING ARRANGED AFTER REFTEL ARRIVED.

2. CARVALHO STATED THAT FONMIN HAD CONSIDERED POLICY ALTERNATIVES AND WAS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO SIX MONTH EXTENSION OF SHRIMP AGREEMENT BECAUSE OF DESIRE TO AVOID INCIDENTS THAT MIGH ADVERSELY AFFECT RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE. DISCUSSION TO DATE HAS BEEN ONLY WITHIN FONMIN. THE DECISION ON EXTENSION WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE BY PRESIDENT. PARTICULARLY
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BECAUSE OF OPPOSITION TO AGREEMENT WITHIN GOB, FONOFF DOES

NOT FEEL IT CAN PRESENT A CASE TO PRESIDENT UNLESS AND UNTIL IT RECEIVES FIRM ASSURANCE THAT AGREEMENT WILL BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED BY US, WITH PASSAGE OF ENABLING LEGISLATION AND PAYMENT OF STIPULATED FUNDS.

3. JAPANESE PRESENT SPECIAL PROBLEM. THEY HAVE BEEN PRESSING FOR SHRIMP AGREEMENT. GOB HAS BEEN RESISTING ON GROUNDS THAT IT CANNOT COMMIT THE NEW GOVT.

4. ECON COUNSELOR RESPONDED THAT US AND BRAZIL HAD COME TO SAME GENERAL CONCLUSIONS. EMBASSY HAD JUST RECEIVED INSTRUCTION TO REQUEST EXTENSION OF ONE YEAR. INFORMATION CONTAINED IN PARA 1 OF REFTEL WAS PROVIDED AND ASSURANCE GIVEN THAT WE WOULD EXPECT TO PAY \$4000,000 PRIOR TO FORMAL EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT.

5. EMBASSY OFFICER PRESSED HARD ON DESIRABILITY OF ONE YEAR EXTENSION RATHER THAN 6 MONTHS ON GROUNDS THAT LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR MID-YEAR MIGHT RESOLVE SOME FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES BY YEAR END AND THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE FOR NEW GOVT COMING INTO OFFICE MARCH 15 TO FOCUS ON THESE ISSUES, DEVELOP POLICIES AND WORK OUT FISHING AGREEMENTS WITH US AND OTHERS, PRIOR TO JUNE 30.

6. IN DISCUSSION CONCERNING US ASSURANCES THAT FONMIN CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL, CARVALHO STATED THAT SOLUTION BEING CONSIDERED BY FONMIN WAS STRICTLY ON INTERIM BASIS. GOB FELT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN FAVORABLE DECISION ON SIX MONTH EXTENSION FROM PRESIDENT BECAUSE IT WOULD LEAVE FUNDAMENTAL DECISION ON ISSUE TO NEW GOVT AND BECAUSE JAPANESE WOULD RECOGNIZE IMPOSSIBILITY OF WORKING OUT ARRANGEMENT FOR JAPAN DURING THIS BRIEF PERIOD. EMBASSY OFFICER REPLIED THAT SAME POSITION COULD STILL BE MAINTAINED WITH EXTENSION OF ONE YEAR. CARVALHO COMMITTED HIMSELF TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF A YEAR'S EXTENSION WITH HIS SUPERIORS.

7. CARVALHO STATED THAT FONMIN WISHES TO RECEIVE WRITTEN COMMUNICATION FROM EMBASSY PROVIDING CURRENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATUS OF LEGISLATION AND THE ASSURANCE THAT WE WOULD PAY THE \$400,000 PRIOR TO EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT. ON BASIS THIS LETTER FONOFF WOULD SEEK DECISION FROM PRESIDENT. CARVALHO THOUGHT IT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT FOR ECON COUNSELOR TO SEND SUCH A LETTER ADDRESSED TO HIM. HE WAS INFORMED THAT INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON WOULD BE REQUESTED.

8. THERE WAS BRIEF DISCUSSION ABOUT FORMALITIES THAT WOULD

BE NECESSARY TO EXTEND AGREEMENT. AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN EMBASSY AND GOB MIGHT BE SUFFICIENT. SUCH AN EXCHANGE WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO PAYMENT OF FEES FOR PERIOD OF EXTENSION.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WISHES DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION TO SEND LETTER FROM ECON COUNSELOR TO CARVALHO CONTAINING INFORMATION IN PARA 1 OF REFTEL, SUGGESTING AN EXTENSION FOR ONE YEAR, AND PROVIDING ASSURANCE THAT WE WOULD NOT EXPECT FORMAL AGREEMENT ON EXTENSION TO BE IMPLEMENTED UNTIL LEGISLATION HAS BEEN PASSED AND BECOMES LAW, OR AT LEAST UNTIL US FULFILLS OBLIGATION TO PAY \$400,000 FOR LAST TWO SEASONS.

10. IT APPEARS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN EXTENSION FOR ONE YEAR RATHER THAN 6 MONTHS BUT WE BELIEVE THERE IS SOME UTILITY IN MAINTAINING THAT POSITION FOR THE TIME BEING. EMBASSY WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON WASHINGTON VIEWS CONCERNING EXTENSION FORMALITIES. CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

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